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MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR &  
BRUNDIDGE, P.C.  
1800 Diagonal Road  
Suite 370  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**MAILED**

**MAR 23 2006**

**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100**

In re Application of:  
K. SHIGA, et al.  
Application No. 10/664,891  
Filed: September 22, 2003  
For: STORAGE NETWORK MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEM AND METHOD

**DECISION ON PETITION  
TO MAKE SPECIAL**

This is a decision on the petitions, filed on 20 April 2005 and 19 September 2005 under 37 C.F.R. § 102(d) and M.P.E.P. § 708.02(VIII): Accelerated Examination, to make the above-identified application special.

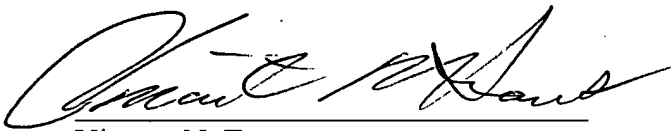
The petition is **GRANTED**.

M.P.E.P. § 708.02, Section VIII which sets out the prerequisites for a grantable petition for Accelerated Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 102(d) states in relevant part:

A new application (one which has not received any examination by the examiner) may be granted special status provided that applicant (and this term includes applicant's attorney or agent) complies with each of the following items:

- (A) Submits a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h);
- (B) Presents all claims directed to a single invention, or if the Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status;
- (C) Submits a statement(s) that a pre-examination search was made, listing the field of search by class and subclass, publication, Chemical Abstracts, foreign patents, etc. A search made by a foreign patent office satisfies this requirement;
- (D) Submits one copy each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record; and
- (E) Submits a detailed discussion of the references, which discussion points out, with the particularity required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c), how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references.

Applicant's submissions of 20 April 2005 and 19 September 2005 meet all the criteria set out above. Accordingly, the petition is **GRANTED**. The application file is being forwarded to the Examiner for accelerated examination in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 708.02. If the application is subsequently allowed, it will be given priority for printing. See M.P.E.P. § 1309.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent N. Trans", written over a horizontal line.

Vincent N. Trans  
Special Program Examiner  
Technology Center 2100  
Computer Architecture, Software, and  
Information Security  
571-272-3613